

# THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS

## Admirable Treatment of Plot for This Competitive House

ALTHOUGH small, this house has a substantial appearance and is quite out of the ordinary. It is planned to be built on a lot 50 by 100 feet, and land and building have been worked out together as a whole so that each fits the other and every bit of land is successfully utilized.

rose covered trellis. On the other side of this trellis is the drying yard, and at the rear of it a plot about twenty-feet square, with a path through the centre for home vegetables.

### New Flowers

HERE are some of this season's novelties offered by florists:—

An early blooming campanula, Canterbury bell, which is said to bloom three weeks earlier than the older sorts.

The cardinal climber, one of the most brilliant annual climbers ever grown. It attains a height of twenty-five feet, with fernlike foliage, and is literally covered with cardinal red flowers from midsummer to frost. The flowers are about one inch in diameter and are borne in clusters of from five to seven flowers.

The Chinese wool flower grows from two to three feet high, with a round central head. Scores of branches are thrown out, each bearing a small scarlet ball.

Karlshagen balcony petunia has an upright plant and rich violet blue flowers.

There is a gentian or broom that is perfectly hardy in the northern climate. It can be grown in any one's garden or shrubbery. It is of slow growth, but eventually reaches a height of three to four feet and as many feet across. In June it is covered with beautiful yellow

pea-shaped flowers, which remain a long time on the plant.

Senecio clivorum, a new Chinese introduction with ample foliage and large heads of rich yellow flowers.



SIDE VIEW-STAIRWAY

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### How to Have a Successful Aquarium

GOLDFISH are as much of an attraction for the outdoor garden as they are for the indoors during the winter. One may have them in a pool if he is fortunate enough to have one on his place, and there are all kinds of quaint outdoor aquariums.

The care of the aquarium is the same wherever it is. Here are some directions which if followed will insure keeping the goldfish happy and in good condition.

Wash the aquarium carefully, dry with a soft cloth and polish with tissue paper. The best light is obtained through a north window, but this is not absolutely necessary. Should a south window be used place the aquarium so that it does not directly face the light. Wash the sand under a tap of running water and stir with a stick until the water washes up from it perfectly clear. Spread it even over the bottom of the aquarium to a depth of about two inches; it should be damp, but not so wet that the fish floats on the top.

Handle the aquatic plants very carefully, as they are always exceedingly brittle.

Make a groove in the sand with the glass dip tube, in which place the roots of the plants. Where no root is visible to the bare stalk. Anchor them with small stones placed on the root, and then replace the sand over the stones and press it down sufficiently to prevent the water from uprooting the plants, but not hard enough to stop the circulation of sap.

With Sagittaria natans and kindred plants proceed in the same manner, only divide the roots into two branches pointing in different directions, making corresponding grooves in the sand. These plants look well near the front glass of the aquarium. Press the ornament firmly in the sand at the back of the aquarium. A very pretty effect is produced by placing the roots of some of the longest sprays of plant under the ornament (tipping it up a little for that purpose) and then pressing it firmly down to keep the plants in position when the aquarium is filled. Allow the sprays to droop gracefully over the ornament.

Use small pitchers of drinking (not filtered) water, place your left hand, with the palm up, near the sand, pour the

water gently over it so that it trickles down without disturbing the roots or washing up the sand. Keep your hand always just above the water, and continue until the aquarium is filled to within two inches of the top.

Sprinkle the bottom of the aquarium with small, clean pebbles, by dropping them carefully in.

With the glass dip tube carefully disengage and float the leaves and stems of the plants, and when the water has had time to settle and partly clear, remove any broken pieces of plant or loose leaves with the net. The floating plants may now be placed on top of the water.

Have the temperature of the water in the aquarium about the same as that of the water in which the fish arrive. Catch them, one at a time, in the net, placing your left hand over it to prevent their jumping out and lay them gently in the water. Do not pull the snails suddenly off the sides of the vessel in which they are sent. Tap it gently several times and they will fall off.

As the water evaporates add more from a pitcher which has stood in the room and let the water fall in with a splash to aerate it. This will be necessary once a month.

The all but closed glass bowl which so many persons seem to regard as the only kind of aquarium in existence is being largely superseded by others of a more open character, which are better for the fish and quite as decorative. Shallow open glass bowls in ornamental iron stands are very effective and may be placed outdoors, where the sun is not too hot, with ferns and other foliage growing about the base, or they may be placed on tables on the porch or in the summer house.

The oblong aquariums are suitable for many situations and have the advantage of being capacious for the fish and adapted for fitting up with plants, shells and other things.

Some of the glass aquariums are painted on the outside with floral, aquatic or conventional designs. A woman who has a little skill with the brush can do this for herself.

Let the children make little aquariums for themselves this summer in the country and fill them with minnows, tadpoles or anything else they can find. It will afford instruction as well as diversion for them. Their aquariums may not be so aesthetic, but they will be interesting.

### Planting the Herbaceous Garden

MRS. HERBERT S. HARDE, who is an amateur gardener who has converted several acres into a veritable flower paradise, has been telling groups of other women how to make the most and the best of their gardens.

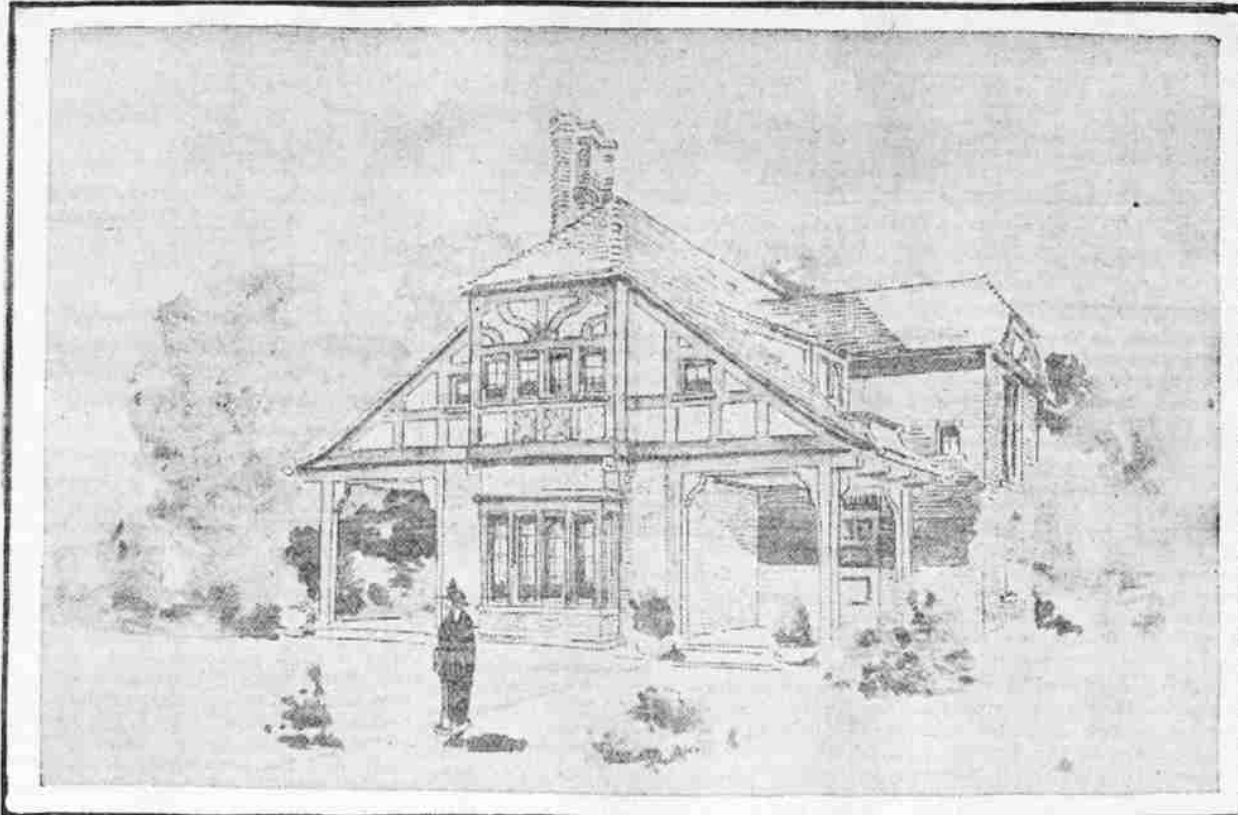
Recently she spoke of the herbaceous garden, the herbaceous border they always call it in England, and recommended that only the flowers of distinction should have a place in the garden. Of course, there will be certain old time favorites that every one will want to

hybrids. Every year the catalogues contain introductory pages depicting the superior charms of new plants. Many of them are never heard of again. They do not stand the test, but, on the other hand, vast numbers of them do and they lend distinction to the gardens into which they are introduced.

Besides, it is interesting to try something new in flowers as in other things. It is still more interesting to try to develop something new one's self, but that is a more difficult problem and

soil for planting, a mixture of bone meal, ground bone, commercial sheep manure and soot.

Mrs. Harde emphasizes the value of giving a thorough watering of flowers when one uses the water at all and then depending upon cultivation to keep them in good condition. In planting a knoll she digs pockets two feet deep and fills the pockets with loam and stable manure. One knoll she largely covered with the Silver Moon roses, pegging them down and training them laterally. A similar



cherish for sentimental reasons, but they need not predominate when there are so many wonderful new hybrids. We talk much of the charm of old fashioned gardens, but the ladies who made them were keen in their time to get the newest and most beautiful novelties. When they got anything new from abroad it was considered a great triumph, and one who had something not common to her neighbors was the object of mingled admiration and envy. They were not at all averse to improving on the gardens of their grandmothers.

So, while we profit by the achievements of the gardeners of other generations, it is by no means a sign of superiority to confine ourselves to the routine flowers of long established gardens. There are so many glorious new

one which takes more time and courage than the amateur has to give.

Mrs. Harde spoke of the necessity for careful and painstaking preparation for the herbaceous border. Without that the choicest flowers will be of no avail.

She explained that many of her friends thought her quite mad on the subject of liming, but she holds fast to the necessity of liming if the land is heavy to make it friable; liming if it is sour to make it sweet; liming, any way, whether it is sweet or sour, to make it better.

To prepare the border or garden for planting it should be dug eight inches, filled in for about six inches with manure, on top of this place lime and on top of that two inches of loam, on top of that more lime, and then, in the top

rose, which some persons think even more beautiful, is the Dr. von Fleet.

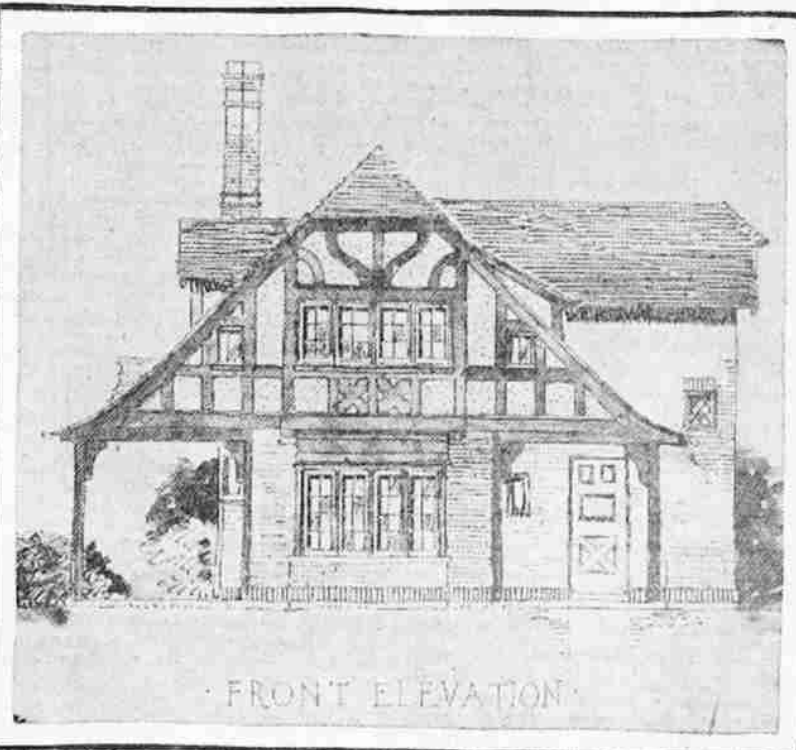
Mrs. Harde is enthusiastic about the use of violas. These are free and continuous bloomers and very lovely for edging borders. To keep them blooming they should be sheared in a sort of wave-like shape to remove the seed pods. There are the viola pedata, a beautiful native sort, and the viola cornuta, almost as large as pansies, with beautiful blue flowers.

Heliotrope is lovely for summer bedding, and especially the little known kind called Elizabeth Densmore. The difficulty about cutting the heliotrope has always been that it turned black and wilted so soon, but it is said that if it is put in tepid water in a dark room and kept there for a while at first it will keep several days. Heliotrope is beautiful when grown among pink roses.

### Good Taste

"WHAT is more important than the house, especially its interior?" inquires Mr. Frank Alvah Parsons, an authority on interior decoration. "Is it not here that the child first sees colors, hears sounds, touches textures? Is this not the place where first impressions are received? These impressions should be of the quality one would have the young mind make permanent as standards for future judgment. They will represent what the owner of the house regards as good taste in the gratification of his desires. As the aesthetic sense quickens the taste for greater subtlety grows, and a changed environment is the result.

"The artistic home should not be re-



FRONT ELEVATION

### Conditions of Competition

ARCHITECTS and those interested in home building are invited to compete for Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) in prizes offered by the New York Herald and this newspaper for the best plans for a house to cost not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000).

Perspective drawings in ink or wash or photographs should be accompanied by floor plans drawn in ink, one-fourth inch scale.

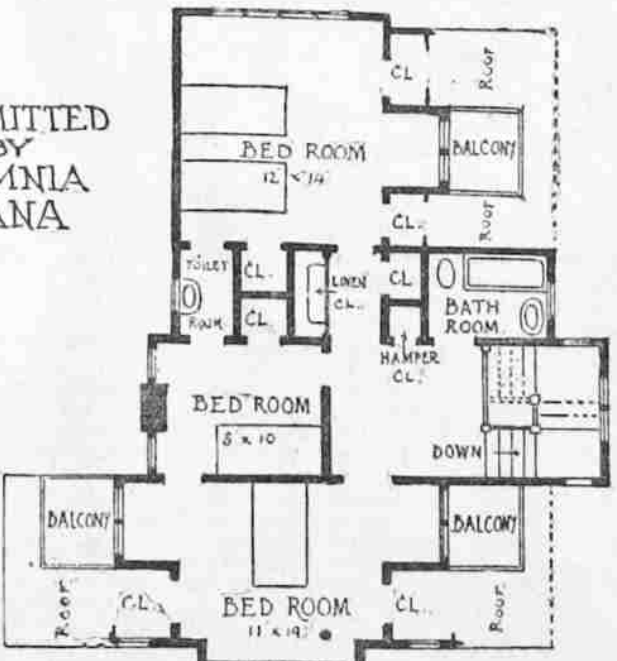
The houses may be designed to be built of any suitable material, but the locality for which they are intended must be specified that allowances may be made for varying prices.

Plans may be submitted at any time up to six o'clock P. M., May 25, and those accepted will be published, one each week, until the end of the competition.

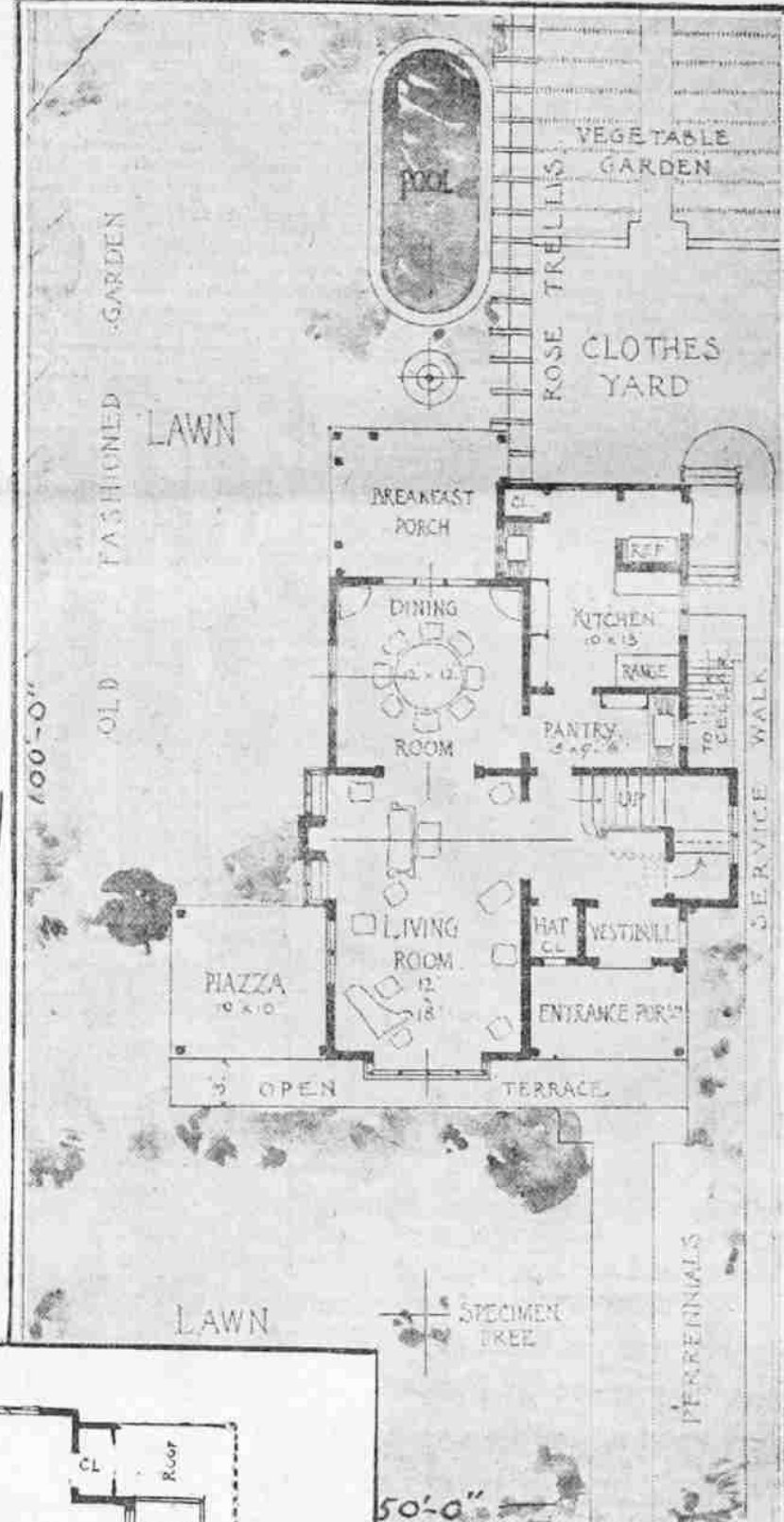
Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) will be awarded for the set of plans selected by a competent committee for the first prize and Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) for those receiving the second award. All others published will be paid for at the rate of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) each. It is understood that all plans, drawings and matter relating to them accepted for publication will become the property of the New York Herald Company.

Address all communications to House and Grounds Editor, in care of this newspaper.

SUBMITTED BY SOMNIA VANA



SECOND FLOOR



they blended with the dull, plain tones in rugs, walls and furniture.

Another room had light walls, light gray furniture, some bright colored pictures on the wall and the gayest chintzes, which looked adorable. It was a room that was not restful, perhaps, but enlivening. Another one had rose, mauve and blues in the cretonne. It sounds a little difficult to harmonize with other things in the room, but it was done. There was a blue black carpet on the floor. The furniture was dull mahogany, and it went together beautifully.

A simpler pattern of cretonne was of gray and rose, and this was taken as the motive for the furnishing of the entire room—a darker gray carpet, light gray walls, with a touch of rose in the frieze; gray furniture with lines of black, and a great cluster of roses in a gray bowl.

There is ample room for originality in the development of a decorative scheme of this kind, but season your enterprise with caution.

garded as a luxury. Its possession should be regarded as a duty to the cause of civilization as well as a response to the normal desires inspired by the aesthetic sense. All expensive things are not good, nor are all cheap ones bad. The question of selection is one of color, form, line and texture and of the principles that produce harmony. If you have had things it is never too late to begin to set them right and begin to get better ones.

"Have definitely in mind what you would have in a room if you could have everything new and have it at once. Buy everything with the finished whole in mind, and as fast as a bad thing can be eliminated replace it with another that harmonizes with the picture you have in mind.

"Start with the background of the room. Make the woodwork, walls, ceiling and floor right. Next change the rugs and hangings when possible. The furniture and decorative material can be dealt with simply and gradually.

"In many houses or apartments built twenty-five or fifty years ago are found grills over doors, plate rails anywhere, abnormal growths on and around the chimney pieces and set mirrors. There are also atrocious stair balustrades, garish tiles around the chimney piece, wedding cake decorations about the ceiling and impossible varnished or grained wood surfaces in the trim.

"It is sometimes hard to get the landlord to tear these things out, but they must come out. The trim may at least be painted old ivory or gray. The tiles also can be painted and they should be

the color of the trim, for they, too, are an essential element of the background idea.

"The greatest hindrance to our realization of what is best in house planning is found within ourselves. Personal whims should not govern our choice, but a selection of those things which conform to the laws of beauty and arrangement."

### Use of Chintz

THE use of chintzes and cretonnes in furnishing a room is full of fascination, but attended by many dangers. If you are going to use highly colored and definitely figured materials of that kind, be sure that they will not scream at the room. The mere fact that the rest of the room may be in quiet colors may make your figured materials all the more glaring and uncomfortable.

If you are going to use chintzes make up your mind to one of two things, either you are going to have a bright and frankly cheerful room or you must so blend it with the other furnishings that it will not jar upon your best taste.

I recall a room in which there were beautiful tones of brown and yellow. Into it intruded large figured cretonnes for chair cushions and draperies. They simply ought not to have been there. Another room had the softest of mauves and violets and the curtains and one chair covering were of large figured chintz, yet they lived together in perfect harmony. Why? The colors of the chintz had been carefully studied and